



What's New in the City

City of Natchitoches

Bloomin' on the Bricks & Art Along the Bricks Rescheduled for April 2

April 1, 2016

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Due to the flooding of Cane River Lake, the 16th Annual Bloomin' on the Bricks Spring & Garden Festival as well as Art Along the Bricks scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2016 have been rescheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2016. Both

events will be held simultaneously in downtown Natchitoches.

Bloomin' on the Bricks, sponsored by the City of Natchitoches Main Street Office, will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches' Historic Landmark District. The festival will feature a wide assortment of lawn and garden vendors, live musical entertainment by The Luke Jazz Trio, children's activities and food booths. Bloomin' on the Bricks is free and open to the public. For more information on Bloomin' on the Bricks, please contact the City of Natchitoches

Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746.

Art Along the Bricks, hosted by the Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery, will take place Saturday, April 2, 2016 in conjunction with Bloomin' on the Bricks. Art Along the Bricks will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. along Front Street. Art Along the Bricks serves to provide visitors to the Natchitoches Historic District opportunities to see the latest offerings in fine arts and crafts as local and area artist display their work in an outdoor art show. For more information on Art Along the Bricks, please contact the Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery at (318) 352-1626.

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Disaster Assistance

City of Natchitoches residents that have been affected by recent flooding are able to apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance. Those affected may apply either by email at 2016flood@natchitochesla.gov or by calling (318) 352-2772. The following information will be needed when applying:

- Phone number
- Social Security number
- Current mailing address
- Address of affected property
- Brief description of damages
- Flood insurance and policy number if available

All information will be submitted to the Natchitoches Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness.

International Festival of Cultures & Cuisines April 12

Students from Northwestern State University's hospitality management and tourism and

be manned by costumed students serving international cuisine and entertainment. Guests



culinary arts programs will host the popular International Festival of Cultures and Cuisines from 4:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 in downtown Natchitoches. Booths will feature themes from countries and cultures around the world and will

can travel from country to country to sample international foods prepared by culinary arts students, wines and beer with music, dancing and entertainment in a family atmosphere.

The academic programs are partnering with NSU's new

International Student Resource Center to include students from Colombia, Japan and Croatia. Features will include cancan dancers at the France booth, belly dancers at the Morocco booth and a salsa band at the Latin American booth. Other countries represented will be England, Japan, Germany, Spain, Greece/Italy and a tribute to the Choctaw Apache Indian Tribe with Native American participation.

"The tribal Chief will have on his Native American clothing and Fort St. Jean Baptiste and the Historical Preservation Association will demonstrate how to make corn husk dolls as well as bead stringing. They will also demonstrate how to

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21st Annual Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival April 15—16

The 21st Annual Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival, which will be held April 15 & 16 on the downtown Natchitoches Riverbank, once again offers a diverse lineup that should appeal to almost any musical taste and will feature a “Saturday Night of Funk.” Headlined by 70’s classical rock hit-makers, Grand Funk Railroad, who will take the stage at approximately 9:30 p.m., just after the legendary Funk/R&B band Midnight Star completes their set.

The performances of these two iconic acts will culminate the weekend of music which will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and will feature over 30 bands on 4 stages along the banks of the Cane River in downtown historic Natchitoches.

Friday evening’s lineup will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be



headlined by Grammy-winning Zydeco legend Wayne Toups and Zydecajun.

Saturday’s lineup, which begins at 11:45 a.m., will feature over 25 bands performing on 4 stages and features an eclectic mix of Jazz, R&B, Rock & Roll, Blues, Country, and much more. The Saturday “Night of Funk” headliners Grand Funk Railroad were highly popular during the 1970s, playing to packed arenas worldwide. David Fricke of *Rolling Stone Magazine* once said: “You cannot talk about Rock in the 1970s without talking about Grand Funk Railroad!”

Grand Funk Railroad had several chart topping hits, including “We’re an American Band” and “The Loco-Motion,” which both reached number one, together with “Some Kind of Wonderful,” “Bad Time,” “Walk Like a Man,” and “Closer to Home,” all of which were charted very highly.

The band still features original members Don Brewer and Mel Schacher, along with former members of 38 Special, Kiss and Bob Seger’s band.

Midnight Star was formed in the late 1970s but achieved their greatest success in the early and mid 1980s. In 1983, they released their fourth album, “No Parking on the Dance Floor” which featured the highly charting single title track as well as “Freak-a-Zoid,” “Wet My Whistle,” and “Slow Jam.”

Their next album, “Planetary Invasion” was almost as big, selling platinum again and making the Pop Top 20 and Number One spot on the R&B chart with its first single “Operator.” The group has continued to tour and record throughout the years and is considered to be a legendary funk/R&B group.

Earlier in the day on the main stage will feature a tribute to the Eagles by the Nashville group Southern Bridges, which is widely known for its faithful replication of the Eagles music and harmonies.

Also appearing earlier in the day is Red Hot New Orleans group, The New Breed Brass Band, which, fresh off of their tour with Trombone Shorty, will bring high-energy New Orleans traditional brass music with a modern flair.

A highlight of last year’s festival was Johnny Earthquake & The Moondogs’ tribute to Elvis Presley, which featured Elvis original drummer, D.J. Fontana, along with Elvis’ former backup singer Estelle Brown of the Sweet Inspirations. Brown will be joining the group for the tribute again, but this year it will be made even more special by the addition of Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and Elvis’ original guitarist, James Burton. The show will be based upon Elvis’ Las Vegas shows of the 70s and will feature approximately 20 musicians and singers on stage.

Daniel Page, Chairman of the Festival’s Entertainment Committee, says he feels that the festival has struck gold with the lineup this year and that most of the performers on the outer stages are talented enough to be featured on the main stage as well. “Oh my goodness, there is a ton of talent all day long on the outer stages,” said Page. “We’re excited to have Nashville recording artist Brody Caster, who was a hit at the Christmas Festival, back in Natchitoches to perform. We’ve got all the top area and regional bands including Billy O’Con and Badd Apple, Breaktime for Francis, Justin Merritt, Hardrick Rivers’ Revue, to name but a few. For Jazz lovers,” Page continued, “there will be a stage at Beau Jardin, which will feature great Jazz music all day long. You could literally spend the day Saturday listening to nothing but Jazz if that’s your thing.”

Page said he is particularly excited about two young, beautiful country songbirds whom will be performing on the main stage on Friday and Saturday. “We’ve got Lainey Wilson opening for Wayne Toups Friday. This will be Lainey’s first performance after the release of her album she recently recorded in Nashville. Then on Saturday, South Louisiana native Kylie Frey will be performing after the NSU Jazz Band. People are going to be blown away by her talent.”

The Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival is a family event and always features plenty of activities for the kids and also features lots of great food. As Festival Chairman Rodney Harrington put it, “As always, and no matter who the performers are on stage, the real star of the Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival is the venue. It is our belief that there is no better place to listen to music and have a great time than the historic downtown riverbank and Front Street area in Natchitoches, Louisiana.”

For more information on the Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival, including ticket information and lineup of performers, go to <http://www.natchjazzfest.com> or the festival’s Facebook page.



International Festival (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

make tamales and those will be available for sale as well,” Woods said. “This is a way to integrate our American students, as well as our international students, with the local community.”

The Festival will take place in the 500 block of Front Street, which will be closed to vehicular traffic for the festival. Participants can purchase \$1 coupons in Hawaii to exchange for samples of beverages and cuisines. Most items will be priced at \$2-3. Proceeds will go towards the NSU Hospitality Foundation.

For more information, contact Woods at (318) 357-5085 or email llwoods@nsula.edu.

Cane River Green Market Opens April 30



The Cane River Green Market (CRGM) will kick off its 2016 season on Saturday, April 30, 2016. The market will operate on each Saturday through July 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches. Vendor applications and sponsorships are now being accepted.

Vendors of fresh fruits and vegetables, value-added products, and hand-crafted items are invited to submit applications for consideration into the CRGM. Value-added products include those products that have added features to its natural state such as farm fresh eggs, baked goods, jams, jellies, pickles, honey, cut flowers, herbs, seasonings, etc. Acceptable hand-crafted items include jewelry, woodwork, stained glass and ironwork.

Those interested in becoming vendors at the CRGM are required to complete the vendor application and provide pictures of the products they wish to sell. All vendor applications will be reviewed by a selection committee for approval. Approved vendors must abide by market rules and regulations and be willing to accept CRGM tokens as approved forms of payment at market. Approved vendors will be required to attend a Vendor Information Meeting on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center located at 716 Second Street.

In addition, sponsorship opportunities are available for those businesses interested in assisting with the CRGM Kids Club program. Through a grant from The Rapides Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, CLEDA and MarketUmbrella.org, the Cane River Green Market was able to introduce the CRGM Kids Club during the Summer 2015 Market Season. The CRGM Kids Club provided an incentive to children under the age of 12 years to eat healthy by providing them tokens to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables. Sponsorships are requested to continue this program at the Cane River Green Market. Sponsorship levels include a full weekend sponsorship of \$500 and partial weekend sponsorships of \$250. Donations of any amount will also be accepted and used for the CRGM Kids Club program. Sponsorship commitments are due by April 8, 2016 for consideration on promotional materials and advertisements.

Vendor applications and sponsorship request forms may be accessed online at www.canerivergreenmarket.com. Both are also available at the Natchitoches Main Street Office located at 781 Front Street in Natchitoches. All vendor applications and sponsorship commitments must be received by April 8, 2016.

For more information, call (318) 352-2746 or visit www.canerivergreenmarket.com.

Great American Cleanup April 23



The City of Natchitoches and Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will hold a city-wide cleanup on Saturday, April 23, 2016 as part of the Great American Cleanup. Community groups and residents are asked to organize and participate in community cleanup efforts.

Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup is the country's largest community improvement program that takes place in 20,000 communities engaging more than 4 million volunteers and community members annually, to create a positive and lasting impact. This year's theme, "CLEAN YOUR BLOCK PARTY" encourages and empowers all volunteers and participants to take what they learn from experiencing a public space Great American Cleanup event and bring it home to organize an event on their own block.

Following the example of Leaders Against Litter, individual residents, groups, businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in the Great American Cleanup by organizing community cleanups throughout the City of Natchitoches and surrounding parish. Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will provide cleanup supplies including garbage bags, rubber gloves, reflective vests, litter grabbers and a limited number of T-shirts. All supplies may be picked up at the Natchitoches Main Street Office located at 781 Front Street on Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to clean a particular area, street, neighborhood, playground or park by calling Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at (318) 357-3822, emailing Morgan Byrd at mbyrd@natchitochesla.gov or signing up online at <http://goo.gl/forms/QOt7NfPvvh>.

City of Natchitoches

**Oldest Permanent
Settlement in the
Louisiana Purchase**

**P.O. Box 37
700 Second Street
Natchitoches, La. 71458**

Phone: 318-352-2772

Fax: 318-357-3829

**E-mail:
cityhall@natchitochesla.gov**



Community Leaders Participate in Leaders Against Litter

In an effort to educate and involve community leaders in the fight against litter in Louisiana, Keep Louisiana Beautiful and 29 affiliates including Keep Natchitoches Beautiful participated in a statewide litter-athon on March 18th which ended with a press conference in Baton Rouge announcing the results.

Local government officials, business and community leaders, including Mayor Lee Posey, Parish President Rick Nowlin, Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, and NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, joined Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at the MLK Recreational Center to participate in the third annual Leaders Against Litter event. Leaders used golden grabbers and wore matching event T-shirts as part of the team to lead the way to a cleaner Louisiana. The leaders then collectively signed a Leaders Against Litter pledge confirming their commitment to SPEAK UP and spread the word that litter is not acceptable, to PICK UP litter whenever they see it, and to STAND UP and lead the way for a litter-free Louisiana.



Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates

Apr. 1 - 3: Annual Spring Encampment at Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site

Apr. 2: Bloomin' on the Bricks, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 2: Art Along the Bricks, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Front Street

Apr. 4: Historic District Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 5: Planning & Zoning Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 8 - 10: Cane River Thunder Full Throttle Motorcycle Rally on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 11: City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 12: International Festival of Culture and Cuisines, 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Front Street

Apr. 15 - 16: Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 16: Natchitoches Authors Forum, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum

Apr. 18: Airport Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport

Apr. 19: "Mounds Plantation and Early Caddo People of Northwest Louisiana" Program, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum

Apr. 21: Historic District Development Commission Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 22: Neighborhood Block Party, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Town South Park

Apr. 23: Great American Cleanup, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Cleanup headquarters at Main Street Office

Apr. 25: City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 30: Cane River Green Market, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 30: Women's Resource Center Run Baby Run 5K, 9:00 a.m. on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 30: Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament, 12:00 p.m. at Robert W. Wilson Recreation Complex

Did You Know?

- Summer Splash will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center. Participation forms are now available for organizations offering summer activities for youth. Booth spaces are free. Call (318) 352-2746 for more information.
- Northwestern State University will host the 34th Annual Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament Saturday, April 30 at the Robert W. Wilson Recreation Complex. Entry fee is \$75 per player or \$300 per team, which includes the cost of carts. For more information, contact Jill Bankston at bankstonj@nsula.edu or (318) 357-4414 or visit northwesternalumni.com/croper.
- Superior Livestock will host the Gulf Coast Classic Cattle Auction on Friday, April 22nd at 8:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.
- Fort St. Jean Baptiste SHS will host their annual spring encampment April 1—3.